



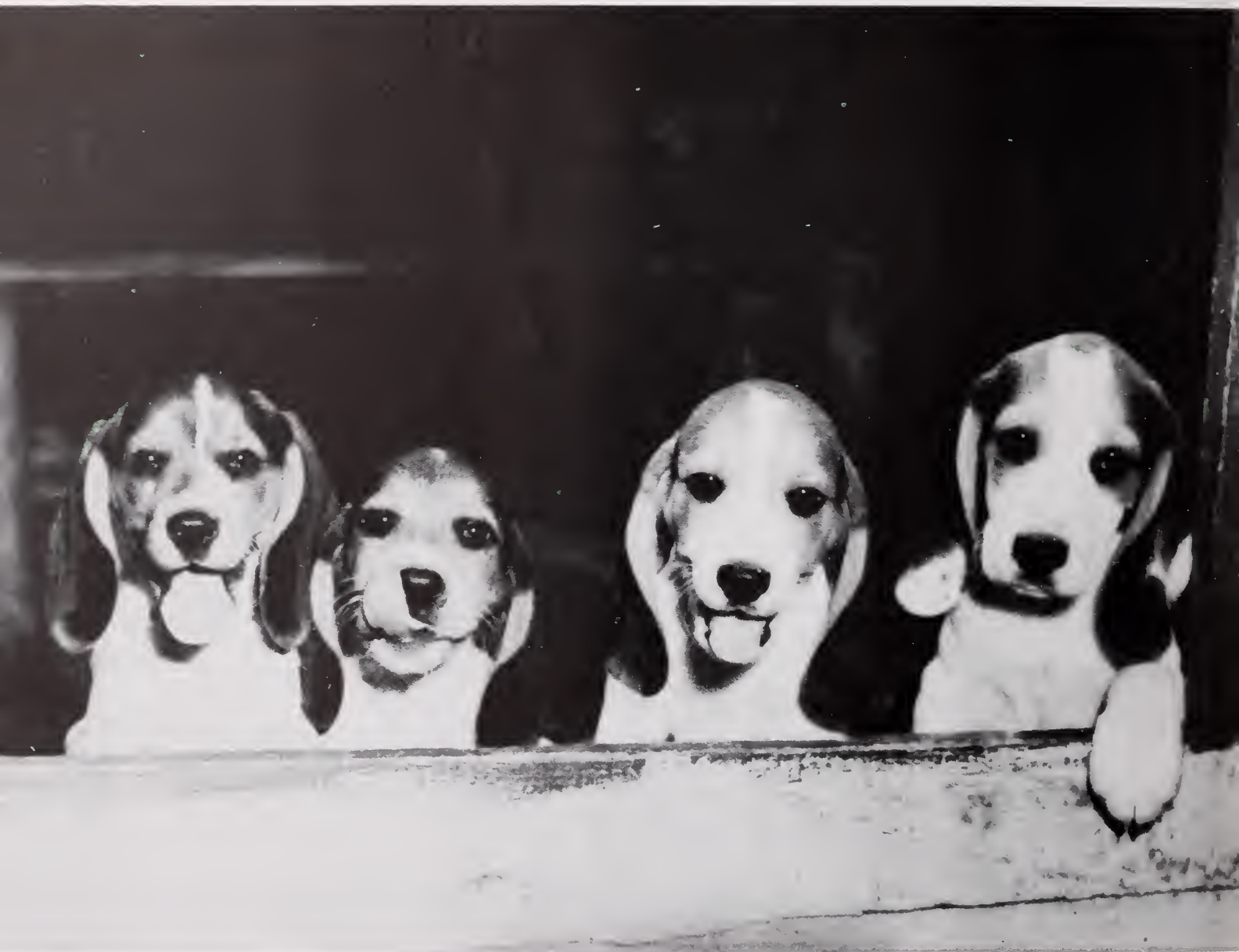
Virginia WILDLIFE

SEPTEMBER, 1953

VOLUME XIV

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Commission photo by Kesteloo

"How old ya gotta be to hunt?"

Virginia WILDLIFE

Published by VIRGINIA COMMISSION OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES, Richmond 13, Virginia
A Monthly Magazine Dedicated to the Conservation, Restoration, and Wise Use of Virginia's Wildlife and Related Natural Resources, and to the Betterment of Hunting and Fishing in Virginia

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



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VOLUME XIV SEPTEMBER, 1953 No. 9

In This Issue

	PAGE
A Respect For Living Things	4
Effective Use of Conservation Education by Law Enforcement Officers	5
To Catch Big Fish Cooperate With the Breakers	8
Old Dominion—Host to 24 Million	10
The Challenge For the Future	12
Conservationgram	13
Radford College's Resource-Use Workshop	14-15
More Game	16
A Professor Looks at Conservation	18
West Augusta Twice Visited	20
My Philosophy of Recreation	22
Field Force Notes	24
Drumming Log	25
Questions and Answers	27

Cover

Close-up of a "crawdad." Though it goes by many names, the crawfish is known nation-wide for its appeal to fish, and is probably one of the most common native fish baits in Virginia. The streams of the state are normally full of these natural "fish-takers", but it is in the shallows and at night with a light that they can be caught in great numbers at a time.

Photo by Charles W. Schwartz

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A Respect For Living Things

WE NEED a greater respect for all living things if conservation is to have real meaning in this country.

Some say that to conserve, to preserve, to use wisely, prudently is a philosophy that is incongruous in a new, free land where natural wealth lies abundant. As a free and young nation, these exponents say, it is only inborn that we should be reckless, careless, and at times, wantonly destructive.

In the early days trees were so abundant they were in the way and were cut down. Land was cheap and the best was more than available. Why bother with poorer soils. Clean them off! Let the sheep and the rains take them! Bison, they were so plentiful—upwards of 60,000,000—that they could be killed just for hides or their livers. Elk on the rich western ranges grazed in such numbers they could be slaughtered for a single tooth. Fish, too, were so thick they could be taken for the roe alone. Dump the rest. The ocean is full. But is it?

Pioneers in the days before, and even during and, after, Daniel Boone would pause on the forested trail and reflect on the bigness of the land.

“Yup, she shore a big country. Hits gonna take a heap a walkin’ to cover this land . . .

“Trees so big seven men’s arms ain’t big ’nough to reach around . . . and high! Podner they’re so high you can’t see the sky for the limbs.”

And tales of wildlife too. Many stories drifting back from the heartier trailblazers sounded unbelievable. Tainted with corn whiskey, though many appeared to be, much element of truth remained in them.

“Buffalo trails? Mister, if I was to tell ya that the mountain slopes of Virginny and Kaintuckee is worn raw with them, ya wouldn’t believe me. But they is.

“And buffalo! Great day in the morning! They’s so thick in that lick country they get in the way of each other, Yup. Thar’s lot’s of game. Wolves and catamounts and bears and turkeys and grouse.”

And so the stories went on.

Whether you accept the premise earlier mentioned that a new and rich country naturally produces destructiveness, the fact remains that we have been the most wasteful nation on earth.

And the philosophy of waste and disregard is still with us today.

When I was a kid on the farm no one told us about conservation. A hawk was a hawk, to be outwitted and killed, regardless of what it was. A snake was a snake—and crush it! It was, cut the trees and burn the brush and clean up those fence lines. And Rover. He was a good dog because he always chased gray squirrel’s up a tree—in season and out—and we had a chance to shoot them or yank them out of a hole by their tails and bash them against the tree.

We weren’t bad kids. No one told us not to do it and it seemed fun.

Today, yesterday, in the days of Lewis and Clark, the basic underlying philosophy which governed us free Americans was the same. We have just had so much, everything was so abundant, living plants and animals so plentiful that we have failed to appreciate them. And this is where lies the crux of our conservation problem.

If we can develop a greater respect for all living things, from giant sequoias and grizzlies to earthworms; if we can instill in children and in grownups a philosophy of appreciation toward Nature and all its wonders, our zealousness for a free, and beautiful, and a continued bountiful America can be much alleviated.

America’s strength and future rests upon a bedrock of two fundamental things. Strength in people. Strength too in natural resources. A greater respect for living things, particularly on the part of young people, will make us a better people. A greater respect for all natural resources by all people will make us a stronger nation.

—J. J. S.

Conservation Education by the Law Enforcement Officer

By GEORGE S. HADLAND
Department of Conservation, Madison, Wisconsin

(Commission photos by Kesteloo)

THIS paper is presented to explain how the conservation officer can, by applying methods of education, prevent persons from violating the conservation laws. By a planned and organized program of education, much can be done to eliminate the violators from the conservation picture. It is our sincere belief that any law enforcement agency, to fully live up to its duties and responsibilities, must have a sound program of prevention. This program, coupled with police power and adequate penalties for the habitual or repeater type violator, will eventually bring about the desired results providing also that the agency has the support of the public, the courts, and the prosecutor's office. It has always been our contention that the police power of the state is the keystone which holds up the broad arc of conservation.

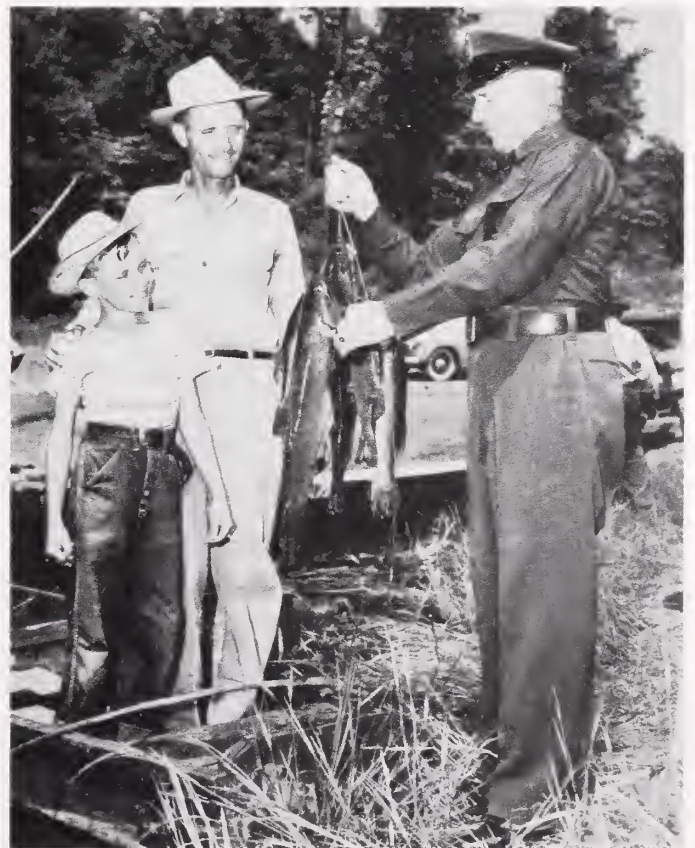
Conservation progress is measured by the extent the people appreciate that wildlife is their property and that no one man has a better claim to it than any other. If this fact were universally accepted, there would be no arrests and certainly no one would charge us with being a conservation failure. The goal of any conservation law enforcement agency should be the maximum protection of resources and people, which calls for a condition where a minimum number of arrests would be necessary. Financial restrictions usually limit the size of the officers' force, but we believe the quality rather than the quantity is of first importance.

There are two schools of thought as to what role the conservation officer should play in the conservation program: (1) those who believe the functions of conservation officers should be multiple and (2) those who believe that the officer cannot do a proper job of enforcement if he has multiple functions to perform. We wish to state here that we are in accord with the policy that the conservation officer performs manifold duties, and we have operated under this policy throughout the history of conservation in Wisconsin.

Conservation today is, in its *broad sense*, a *salesman's* job. With this fact in mind, it is necessary that new recruits have qualifications and requisites that will best

fit them for this role of conservation officer. The applicants in Wisconsin must pass a rigid civil service examination. They must be between the ages of 21 and 30, weigh not less than 160 pounds, and be at least five feet, nine inches tall. In addition, they must have received a degree from a recognized college either in forestry, game or fish biology, or related courses applicable to conservation work. Further, they must be of good moral character, emotionally stable, resourceful, tactful, and alert; they must be well developed physically, and are required to unconditionally pass a rigid physical examination given by a physician designated by the Conservation Department. As stated before, they must be salesmen and leaders, and in order for them to make use of these two qualifications, it is of

Public relations come first with the law enforcement staff, as it does with all other branches of the Department.



* This paper is the third in a series of education papers presented at the 18th North American Wildlife Conference, held last March in Washington, D. C., at the Hotel Statler.

vital importance that they be trained in all policies and programs of the Conservation Department. In addition, they must know these three things: (1) the law, (2) the public's rights and (3) their own rights. Good public relations come first with their own conservation department because they cannot possibly have the best public relations on the outside unless they first have them on the inside, and that is why constant in-service training is necessary. Because of their strategic or regional location in various parts of the state, it is necessary that the conservation officers be the interpreters and salesmen for the Conservation Department. In order to carry out this function, it is of dire necessity that they have full knowledge of the multiple programs that are grouped as conservation. With their practical knowledge, coupled with their technical information, the officers are in the best position to dispense and sell the over-all program to the public. With the vast amount of information pouring out of conservation mills these days, it takes well informed men to put their fingers on those items that have immediate public application. It is recognized that one of the most potent tools available to game or fish management is regulation. Because this is true, it is of vital importance that the officers have a broad understanding and be a part of such management. The officers can be considered one of the important arms of management in their respective areas.

Recognizing that the minds of youth can be guided, provided proper leadership is available, the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Division embarked upon a juvenile-education program. The legislative groundwork had already been laid. Wisconsin was one of the first states in the Union to provide adequate juvenile delinquency laws. These laws provide that the parents are responsible for the actions of their youngsters, and also establish procedure for juvenile guidance and court action. They provide protection for the youngster inasmuch as it is illegal to publish the names of juveniles arrested in

this state. There are two phases to this educational program: (1) actual contact in the field when a youngster has violated the law and (2) a planned program which is presented in our schools and to various youth organizations such as junior conservation clubs, Boy Scouts, Future Farmers of America, and summer camps.

In the first phase of this program, our conservation officers identify themselves and explain to the youngsters the need for conservation laws. They then tell them the basic conservation story. The officers take the youngsters home and meet the parents. They explain our program to them and ask them for their cooperation. In the more serious cases, the youngsters and the parents are brought before the district attorney and juvenile court for whatever action the court and prosecuting attorney deem proper. We suggest to the youths and their parents that the boys join a junior conservation club, the Boy Scouts of America, or if they live in the country, the Future Farmers of America, or any other youth organization where proper leadership is provided. Youngsters, as we all know, have unlimited energy, and unless we adults guide that energy along constructive lines, it will in most cases be used for something destructive. The officers also take these youngsters with them when stocking fish or game and utilize their energy in tree planting programs or in helping on game census surveys where they can contribute. By being a part of doing something constructive, their interest will grow and they will not only be better conservationists, but better citizens as well.

In all cases the officers make out a card form which they send to the main office, giving the name and address of the youth and the violation, and report the action they took in each youth treatment case. A complete card file is kept of all juvenile cases as well as adult cases. We write the youngsters a letter pointing out that we need their help, and if Wisconsin is to maintain its leadership in conservation, it is necessary

With their knowledge, coupled with technical information, the wardens are in the best position to dispense and sell conservation to youth, adults and the public in general.





In-service training is necessary in order that all wardens become thoroughly versed on the many policies, laws and multiple programs of the game and fish departments.

that they too contribute to this program. We point out that our interest in them is one of a friendly nature and that we wish to help them wherever we can. We send them conservation literature prepared especially for this age group and also literature on gun safety, boat safety, and pictures of fish and game native to this state so that they can learn to identify them.

The second phase of this program is in meeting with youth groups, particularly in schools. We teach the students the wonders of nature and appeal to their sense of fair play pointing out that it is not any satisfaction winning a football, baseball or basketball game if one has to cheat to win, and neither is there any satisfaction in bagging a deer, partridge, fish or squirrel for the same reason. In explaining the rules, we teach them the basic concepts of conservation and try to impress upon them that game and fish are but a by-product of good conservation land management.

The Law Enforcement Division noted that the Forest Protection Division had carried on a successful educational program of forest fire prevention in the schools of this state, and they were the first to inaugurate such a program in Wisconsin. The fine record of the Forest Protection Division in this state is an outstanding example of what can be done through education. At this time the Forestry, Game, Fish, and Law Enforcement Divisions are jointly carrying the educational program to the schools of this state. It is called a Conservation Education Day Program. Our personnel act as instructors in the school for the entire day. In our opinion, this program is ideal for it not only shows the public that we are one conservation department, but we find, in a great measure, it promotes better relationships among divisions.

The records show that we have obtained convictions in the last three years in 99 plus per cent of game law cases. Two circuit court judges in the past year ad-

monished two circuit court juries for failure to find a man guilty as charged by our conservation officer, and these two circuit court judges informed the jury that they would never again be called upon to sit as jurors in their courts, as the evidence presented by our officers was conclusive in their minds that the persons were guilty as charged. The high percentage of convictions plus the attitude of the courts and the public definitely prove to us that the education and prevention program carried on in Wisconsin is receiving public support. A few short years ago, we did not enjoy the above picture in this state, and we attribute, in a great measure, the convictions on game law cases to our educational program. We are predicting that in the next decade this prevention program, through education, will bring the desired results. We strive to improve our prevention program wherever we can, laying the basic groundwork for better results in the future. For example, we have in this 1953 Legislature introduced, as part of our educational program, a bill on gun safety for minors. Under this proposed bill, the minors would have to pass a gun safety examination and exhibit a certificate that they had passed such examination before obtaining a hunting license in this state. It is our intention, if this bill becomes law, not only to teach them gun safety, but outline to them the conservation story at the same time. Such efforts as these convince the public that enforcement officers are attempting to prevent violations by practical application. Therefore, in the interest of improved law enforcement, it is recognized that conservation education must be considered on a state and national basis.

Nothing can long endure, our wildlife, our soils, our forests, or our democracy, unless we build up in those who follow a consciousness and a conviction that these heritages must not be abused. Unless a tree is fed from the bottom up, it will die from the top down.

Cooperate With The Breakers

By MARSHALL MORGAN *

ONCE upon a time a teacher asked the members of the class to write a composition on pins. One alert youngster submitted the following:

"Pins is a very useful article. They save people's lives by not swallowing 'em."

Perhaps if the teacher had suggested a composition on breakers this same resourceful young man might as quaintly have written:

"Breakers, which is big rolling waves, is mighty useful. They help fishermen standing on the beach to catch big fish from the ocean."

When the Colonel and the Major stepped into my living room on a sunny day in May, I knew fish were biting somewhere.

"Just got word from Cap'n Dan. Channel bass are making the water boil off Chincoteague!" exclaimed the Colonel.

Next day our big car was eating up the miles that led us to the flat "Eastern Sho'" country of Maryland and Virginia. In a few hours we rolled across the bridge into the quaint little fishing town of Chincoteague.

"I engaged Cap'n Dan as our boat captain," explained the Colonel.

Early next morning we were at the dock, arms full of tackle, hearts full of that eternal hope that abides with every true disciple of Izaak Walton. Our boat we found was a trim craft, a 45-footer equipped with every convenience and plenty of motor power to buck Atlantic rollers.

"We'll run down the inside passage most of the way," explained Cap'n Dan.

"It's a good ways to where we fish."

Once during our journey down the inside passage it was necessary to run out into the Atlantic for a short distance, then back into the inside passage. As we eased through a pass out into the ocean a great swell seemed about to overwhelm us; a mountain of water appeared to be rolling down upon us. But the gallant little LOTTIE CORBIN, somehow, eased up on top of the swiftly advancing swell and rode it bravely. Miles

* Mr. Morgan is an outdoor enthusiast and sportsman from Arlington, Virginia.



down the inside passage Cap'n Dan nosed the LOTTIE CORBIN against the beach, anchored her securely and announced:

"Here it is, men. Just a short walk across the sand dunes to the surf."

We could hear the breakers roaring on the bar as we neared the crest of the sand dunes. Soon we could see them rolling shoreward, where each one crashed against the beach and spent itself there, fading out in a gentle ripple.

"We use bunker along here for channel bass," explained Cap'n Dan, "mullet to you." Quickly he made up his favorite fish-finding rig. The fishing line with a loop at the end was run through a ring to which was attached at the end of a short leader a six-ounce pyramid sinker. The hook used was a number 8-ought O'Shaughnessy, attached to a short wire leader. The loop of the wire leader was laid in the curve of a double-back leather thong. Then the loop at the end of the line was run through the two eyes of the thong, the leader and hook being passed through the line loop, then the line hook was drawn tight in a slip knot against the eyes of the thong. After carefully fastening a big hunk of bunker on the hook, Cap'n Dan proceeded to tie the bait on with strong cord.

"Channel bass got tough, strong mouths," he explained. "You want your bait to stay on the hook 'till he gets hold of it good and you can set the hook. Tying on the bait makes it harder for him to steal it off."

Cap'n Dan's bunker-baited arrangement was a typical "fish-finder" rig. The line could play out freely through the ring above the pyramid sinker and bass picking up the bait would feel no retarding, tell-tale pull. When the rig was wound up close for a cast the sinker ring slid down against the leather thong and stopped there. With the weight of the sinker and bait at the end of the rig the spring of my surf rod responded perfectly to give the baited rig a ride out over the surf. The incoming tide made the corners of the pyramid sinker dig into the sand and prevented the rollers from washing the baited rig back to the shore. At the same time this rig permitted the line to play out freely if a fish took the bait.

"Fish anywhere along here," said Cap'n Dan, "But watch out for the quiet places in the breakers. Kinder slough-lookin' places. It's deeper there, quieter water. That's where a big old bass might be layin' waitin' to grab anything that comes along."

We separated, the Colonel, the Major, and Cap'n Dan heading up the beach. I would go the other way. I took my time. I was alone. No one to hurry me and I wanted time to study the water. I walked down the beach, then back and forth, looking for just such a slough as Cap'n Dan had described. Presently, I heard a yell up the beach. The Colonel was holding up a good-sized pink-looking fish. I waived in enthusiastic acknowledgment. A little later more yelling up the beach. This time the Major was holding up another pink-looking fish. Cap'n Dan had certainly put them

into channel bass water. I had to get busy.

Just then, I noticed a smooth open space in the breakers. The rollers instead of crashing on the sand bar there seemed to level off and ease in quietly. It looked like Cap'n Dan's slough, I was convinced of it. Putting on my thumb-stall and wetting it thoroughly so that the dry line on the reel would not burn me on the first cast, I got set. As a wave broke on the beach and started receding, I quickly followed it out as far as I dared, for another wave was on the way in. I swung the rod tip back with its weighty rig then sprung it forward with all my strength, holding my thumb gently on the reel spool meanwhile. The heavy sinker and bait rode out over the surf, the line following in a long graceful curve. I thumbed the reel spool evenly and carefully with just enough pressure to prevent the spool from overrunning, and watched the bait ride out over the water. Then I hurried back out of reach of the next incoming wave. It seemed to be a long cast, a lucky one anyway and I was proud of it for I know that a successful cast with a surf rod was a combination of skill, strength and co-ordination of arms, legs and body, if one was to get the bait out where it ought to be. The bait did drop smoothly into the quieter water of the slough,—beyond what would ordinarily have been a line of breakers. Holding the reel-spool lightly I waited in nervous expectancy.

Suddenly, I felt a pull on the line. It was a firm even pull, not a sudden jerk. The line rolled off steadily. Barely touching the reel-spool with my thumb I let the line play out. When perhaps fifty feet of line were gone, I tightened up a little to feel him. I could really feel him now. It was a pull that betokened speed, weight and strength. A fish was making off with my bait and I was sure he was a big one. As he ran I noted that he was cutting off at a right angle, going out and down shore. He was running out of the slough and was heading into the breakers. Letting him run perhaps fifty feet more I bore down on the reel-spool and struck him hard. The big hook went home. With a terrific lunge he was off on a smashing run. It felt like I had a mile at the other end of the line. I did not try to stop him, but tried to make it as tough for him as I could. I tightened up but not enough to freeze the spool and break the line. He kept on going straight out to sea. I let him run. I was afraid not to let him run! Wouldn't he ever get tired? I was thumbing the reel-spool as hard as I dared. My greenheart tip described the shape of a drawn bow as the fish kept on to sea. One hundred and fifty yards of 30-pound test linen line were gone. At last I was getting panicky. Then I saw him. There he was, way out there, a great pink and copper-colored fish coasting on top of the rollers. When he had thus finished his first run, and I found I had stopped him, I began edging down the beach so as to place the fish squarely in front of me, if possible, and thereby reel in some line. He had stopped running now. He was on top of the breakers and was swimming on a line parallel to the crest of each breaker. Now I

(Continued on page 23)

Old Dominion—Host to 24 Million

By ROBERT F. NELSON

Managing Director, Virginia Travel Council

(Photos courtesy Va. State C. C.)



Tourists visit our natural wonders, scenic beauty—



and while here pay 15 per cent of our gasoline tax—

NEVER in the history of the Old Dominion has this Commonwealth been the mecca for so many visitors. Virginia State Highway Commission surveys last year showed that more than 24,000,000 visitors from other states motored to the Old Dominion, while bus, air and rail lines swelled this total by several million people.

These visitors left millions of dollars in the Old Dominion, paid 15 per cent of the gasoline tax for the construction of highways, ate more than \$50,000,000 worth of agricultural products and sustained 16,500 businesses that are licensed under the tourist establishment inspection laws of the state.

To Virginia's constantly growing travel trade may be attributed 25 per cent of the total economic revenue of the Commonwealth. In its May Bulletin the Fifth Federal Reserve Bank, at Richmond, points out that travel contributes more to the economic wealth of the state than the manufacture of tobacco or textiles or the chemical industries, in fact more than any single group of industries in the state.

The Advisory Council on the Virginia Economy, in the summary of a report it shortly will issue, says that "Virginia's travel industry is probably a half-billion-dollar industry, ranking it close to second place,

if not in second place, after manufacturing. With careful promotion of the part of travel which is of a voluntary nature, the size of the travel industry, barring war, may, at its present rate of growth, outstrip manufacturing as Virginia's Number One industry within the foreseeable future."

The Virginia travel industry had grown three years ago to such scope that the State Department of Conservation and Development called a meeting of private travel interests and suggested the organization of a trade group for travel, which came into being and is the Virginia Travel Council. It has only one purpose, the building of the state's economy through dollars made elsewhere but brought here for expenditure.

At the time of the formation of the Council the State Highway Commission told it that highway surveys showed the visitor stayed only about two days each on the average in Virginia. As Virginia has approximately four times as many visitors as Florida, which has a billion-dollar revenue from travel, the Council immediately sought figures to find out why the State's benefits from this source of wealth equaled only about \$164 million. The answer was that the length of stay of the visitors in Florida averaged 17 days.

After two and a half years of constant effort, spear-

headed by the tourist information schools of the State Board of Education and personal work by the field service of the Council, the Advisory Council on the Virginia Economy reports that now the visitor is spending seven days within our borders.

One of the great problems found in travel development work by the Council is the fact that Virginians do not know their own state nor its attractions and, therefore, are unable to tell visitors about them.

The first state advertising appropriation was made by the Legislature during the administration of Harry

as one of the most beautiful valleys in America. The Old Dominion possesses a location overnight from half the nation's population.

The travel business has been one of the greatest boons to Virginia of any of her sources of revenue, because it has spread along the highways, in her mountain fastnesses, on the Eastern Shore and in fact just about everywhere that revenue is needed. Many counties now will find that the travel dollar is the dollar that is spreading prosperity where there is little or no industry and where agricultural revenue is not sufficient to pro-



—consume over \$50,000,000 worth of our agricultural products each year

Flood Byrd as governor of Virginia and an appropriation has been consistently made ever since. This appropriation has been the backbone of the travel development of the state.

Another major step in travel development was the passage by the Virginia General Assembly of the tourist establishment inspection laws, the most stringent of any state in the nation. These went into effect in 1948 and caused the closing of more than 1,700 businesses that could not meet the sanitary and other requirements of the law. But they re-established public confidence in the facilities and accommodations offered by Virginia and have done much to bring the public back to the state.

No state in the Union has more to offer the visitor than Virginia. The Council points out that besides mountain and sea resorts, more than a hundred historic shrines already are open to the public, 12 commercialized natural wonders and many that could be added to this group, four of the nation's great federal parkways, six great federal historical parks, the third largest and one of the outstanding highway systems in the nation, more than a million and one-half acres of national forests, a great national park and the Shenandoah Valley, known in song and story as the "daughter of the stars," in history as the "grainery of the South" and to travelers



—and spend thousands of dollars annually for sporting equipment and incidentals.

vide social and economic opportunity for youth.

These new Virginians, educated at heavy expense to the state, are needed to build Virginia. In the not distant past the lure of greater social and economic opportunities elsewhere drained off much of the cream of our graduating classes. But today, through the development of the travel business and of the state generally, the Old Dominion is offering these human assets equal or greater social and economic opportunity than is offered elsewhere.

The Virginia Travel Council is urging the Virginia General Assembly to increase its advertising fund. It argues that the investment of half a million dollars in building our economy in this field would be a wise investment. Last year the Council points out, more than \$17,000,000 in new investments were made to travel facilities. This year if federal prohibitions did not stand in the way, the Council states that more than \$20,000,000 would be similarly invested. These new facilities await only the "Go" signal.

Virginia, with her established place in the heart of the people of America, needs only do the proper advertising on a state level, backed by our counties and cities, our private interests and resorts, to be the mecca for all America and take its rightful place as the Number One travel destination of this continent.

"The Challenge for the Future"

By MRS. J. H. ADAMS *

GRACE Nowell has said, "I cannot be a part of life unless I, too, contribute all I have to give."

Let's take this saying and substitute, "WE", for this is what our Nature Camp stands for and—so truly offers us a challenge for the future.

This subject is a challenge to the writer for it covers so much and affects so many, and to do it justice is an impossibility. However, I shall bring to you my thoughts of what this camp can give to our youth.

First of all, character building—character building in the sense that we are teaching a child to love God through the beautiful things that He has created. These things that are closest to Him. The song of the birds,—the beauty of wildflowers,—the stately trees,—the flowing streams, — and even the glorious sunrise and sunset. All of these things made by God and untouched by man give the child a better understanding and a closer relationship with God. We believe a child who is garden-minded is God-minded. Days spent here are character building.

Next, conservation — In my opinion, the true meaning of conservation is preservation—it is a recognition of the interdependence of every part of the earth on every other part and of man's utter dependence on it all — it means food for tomorrow and so it is necessary that these things be instilled into the mind of the child attending this Nature Camp. It is important that we teach the child to care for the things that have been put here for us to enjoy.

It is necessary and important that we bring youngsters back to nature and to soil and that we help build healthy bodies through exercise and participation in activities that can only result in deeper knowledge of the finer things of life and in cleaner minds. This is our purpose at Nature Camp,—to instill in our youth a love of nature and to teach them to see the beauty of the world around them. We accept this challenge when we accept a child as a camper and we feel confident also

that our instructors also accept this responsibility.

Teaching the child to live with others—this teaches a child to share and to cope with the situations that will fit him to meet others as he grows to manhood. There are many other important phases of the Nature Camp of the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs which I have not mentioned. These three things alone challenge us for the future to do all that we can to complete this worthwhile project. When completed this will be the first such camp owned and operated by a Federation such as ours.

Started in 1941—now in 1953—we see our dreams about to be realized. Time cannot measure the days and nights that have been spent in planning—nor can

we tell the strain on heart and mind as we have watched this work. We have wondered if the building would ever be completed. We who have sat at home and thought of the work being done here have been complacent and willing to let Mrs. Schilling do the work. We have been perhaps irked at times because of the need for money and more money,—but who can say the deep feeling behind each written word we have received.

We wish to take this opportunity to say to Lillian Schilling, "thanks" and to assure her that we are with her and will do all that we can to complete this project. Federation members voted in May to name and so mark the main building at the camp the, "Lillian Schilling building."

Friends, we are challenged to complete this work for many are watching us as we carry forth. We perhaps feel that we have weathered the storm—our sailing is a little smoother—so let's all of us put our hearts and our means at the helm so that we may travel our course safely and upon completion of our journey find that we have lowered our anchor in the harbor of success and service.

"It has been said,—"They serve God well who serve His creatures."



Commission photo by Shomon

The new Federation of Garden Club's Nature Camp at Vesuvius.

* Mrs. Adams, former president of the Federation of Garden Clubs and at present on the board of directors, presented this talk at the opening day ceremonies of the Federation's Nature Camp, June 16, at Vesuvius.

CONSERVATIONGRAM

Late Wildlife News . . . At A Glance

GOVERNOR CITES VALUE OF CONSERVATION: Honorable John S. Battle, Governor of Virginia, in a radio talk presented during Virginia's Conservation of Natural Resources Week, said in part: "Our natural resources are the very foundation of our great industrial and agricultural strength. Productive land on which good crops, pastures, or forests will grow and which will sustain wildlife is the most valuable resource on earth. The misuse and improper treatment of our land through the years has caused accelerated soil erosion, ruinous floods, sedimentation of our reservoirs and harbors, and many other forms of severe damage."

PITTSYLVANIA POND COMPLETED; HALIFAX POND BEGUN: Construction of the 80-acre public fishing pond in Pittsylvania County by the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries has been completed, and a contract has been let and construction begun on a new public fishing pond in Halifax county. I. T. Quinn, Executive Director of the Commission, announces.

Quinn stated that construction on the 111-acre Halifax County pond should be completed no later than September 15th of this year.

COTTAM RECOMMENDS DRAINAGE OF BACK BAY AREA SWAMP: Dr. Clarence Cottam, assistant director of the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, has made specific recommendations to the Corps of Army Engineers that the vast swamp area in the vicinity of Back Bay and Currituck Sound be drained.

After several days of survey and inspection work in the North Landing River area in Princess Anne County, Cottam concluded that because this swamp water has no outlet it is backing up into Back Bay and Currituck Sound, destroying waterfowl food plants and is proving destructive to the fish life of the area.

The survey and study by Cottam was made at the instance of the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries in behalf of a delegation from Princess Anne County headed by State Senator V. Alfred Ethridge.

COMMISSION PHOTOGRAPHER KESTELOO RECEIVES RECOGNITION: L. G. Kesteloo, Commission photographer, has added more laurels to his growing list of commendable wildlife pictures.

Kesteloo submitted four prints in the animal category of the statewide photographic competition, arranged by the Virginia Professional Photographers Association at its annual convention. All four photos were "hung" and he took first, second, and third prizes with the fourth receiving recognition.

The four pictures entered and the order of awards were as follows: 1st prize, "The Dowager" showing a least bittern; 2nd prize, "Hunter's Return" showing a Coopers Hawk in flight; 3rd prize, "Two Flying Squirrels." The picture "hung" was "Young Cub Bear."

RADFORD COLLEGE RESOURCE-USE WORK

Radford State Teacher's College held its first resource-use, in-service workshop for teachers of the state last July. The two-week session generally consists of morning lectures by outstanding men in the various fields of natural sciences including forestry, soils, wildlife management, and other associated fields.

Each of the morning lectures was followed in the afternoon by a field trip to some nearby site of interest which was related to the subject of resource-use.

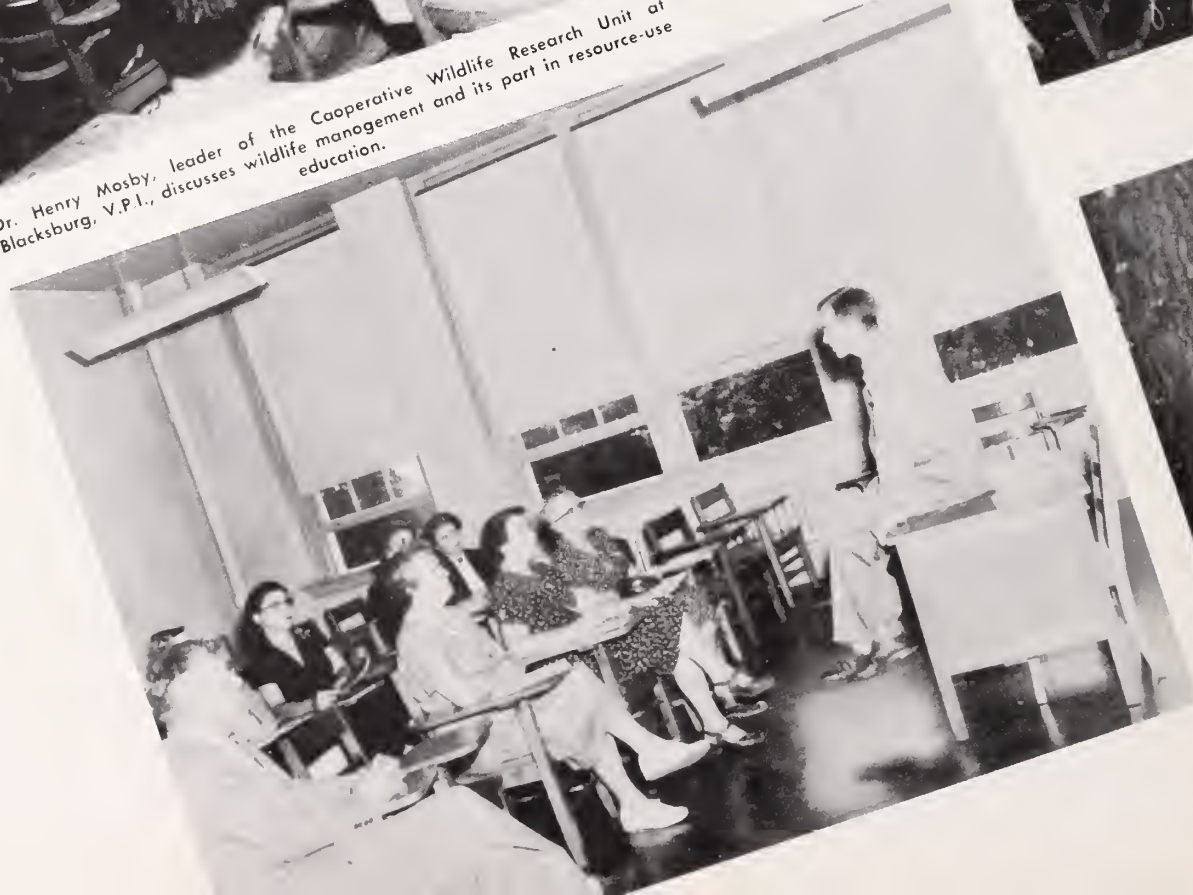
Professor H. C. Graybeal, High School Counselor for southwest Virginia, who coordinated the workshop, briefs teachers on fundamentals of conservation and the reasons for teaching it.



Dr. Metzger, ceramic engineer from V.P.I., lectures about the importance to our economy.



Dr. Henry Mosby, leader of the Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at Blacksburg, V.P.I., discusses wildlife management and its part in resource-use education.



Paul Sundheimer, assistant supervisor of the Jefferson National Forest, explains the importance of the forest to the economy.



als and their relation



Robert Merritt, Commission special services officer, instructs teachers on construction and merits of the class-room terrarium as a teaching medium.

in charge of wildlife management on
work and projects carried out on
forests.



A look at a forest fire tower is part of the field trip, at which time the functions and workings of the tower-system were explained.

MORE GAME?

Friend, Neighbor, Fellow Sportsman, it's all up to you.

By BEVERLEY W. STRAS, JR.

Chairman, Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries

(Commission photos by Kesteloo)

DURING the twenty-five years that I have served on the State Game Commission, including nine years as its chairman, I have seen a great deal of water flow over the dam in the wildlife conservation picture. Much has happened in the wildlife field during recent years and our ideas are changing. Mine have changed, and, I dare say, yours have too.

Your *Virginia Wildlife* editor has asked me to write down some of my thoughts on this very complex problem of more game for the hunter and how we in Virginia can have more of these things if we want to.

So if you can bear with me for 9 or 10 minutes I will do my best to point out the heart of the problem as I see it. I don't say it is *the* answer, but it is the best I can give you.

First, let me say that I am not a scientist or a biologist. I am a businessman and an outdoor enthusiast. I hope too I can be classed as a conservationist. As such, I look to the trained specialists for much information and the necessary scientific facts. Just as in medicine or a business of any kind, we must rely to a large extent on what science and research have given us in order to pass judgment and make sound decisions.

Game management can be likened to a business—in fact, it is a business. As such, it is a highly complicated enterprise and profits, if there are to be any, are elusive and come not without sacrifice.

Experience has taught us during the past 30 years that to increase game in a situation where people want more and more and when living space for game is constantly shrinking, poses some challenging problems! Game increases cannot be done simply—but *they can be done*.

Now what have we found? Well, for one, science has shown us that state game farms are not the answer; they have a place, yes, but a minor one. Likewise, more laws

are not the answer although they are needed and play their part. Surely, too, better laws are needed. Law enforcement is not the answer although this too is needed. Without proper living space for wildlife, protection, no matter how good, is of little avail. What about open and closed seasons? Again, this is only a tool to work with and as a tool it is basic. But it is not the answer. Predators? Predator control? Does the answer lie in unrestricted destruction of the undesirable forms of wildlife? Hardly. Experience and research show this is a highly debatable and dangerous assumption.

I think the first premise we must all recognize in the game business is that suitable homes—homes providing ample food and cover and protection—come first. This means further that the homes or living places, or whatever you want to call it, of game or wildlife generally must be of the right character and quality and quantity



To manage wildlife requires manipulation of plants for its benefits, and we must rely upon the wildlife biologist, for scientifically trained as he is, he is in the best position to advise us.

at the proper time!

Now what does this mean. It means that until we get game management on the land itself, working, doing, manipulating the land (chiefly plants) we are only doing a lot of wishful thinking. Talking about it isn't going to help. Neither is speech making and public hearings. Only by actually working on the land, and water, by doing so called "grass roots" work are we going to help matters materially.

This is the reason why your Game Commission is stressing the need of habitat improvement for game. This is the reason why we are spending so much time with farmers and landowners generally in trying to improve the land so that it will carry more wildlife. When we have more nature-reared game we have surpluses and this is our profit in the hunting harvest.

There is another important angle to consider here. If we are to manage the land for game then we've got to think in terms of plants which are to the liking of certain types of game. Here we rely upon the wildlife biologist. Trained scientifically as he is, he is in the best position to advise us what to do and what not to do.

This is exactly what we're trying to do in Virginia. In our farm game program, which is largely directed toward private land and designed to encourage quail, rabbits, and doves, our staff of trained game technicians gives advice to farmers on planting materials. Seeds and plants are provided the landowner if he will plant and care for them in accordance with the Commission's recommendations. These materials are furnished free by the Commission, as are the many services of the technicians and game wardens.

In our forest game work, principally on the two national forests of Virginia totalling some 1,500,000 acres of public hunting land, a second major phase of game work is being carried on. The improvement of game habitat *in the forest* and favoring forest game species such as deer, bear, grouse, turkey is essentially what this program is. This work is made possible through the monies received from the sportsman's special \$1.00 national forest stamp which entitles him to hunt and fish on the national forest lands.

Here then you have the brief picture of the Commission's main game production effort: farm game habitat improvement and forest game habitat improvement.

This is the Commission's part; it is the Commission's effort. But by itself, it is not enough. The only way we can have more game is for everyone of you, your neighbor, the farmer, the man of the street, everyone—to do his or her part in the program. The way to more wildlife is more public understanding, more public participation, more down to roots effort on every parcel of land and on the part of every possible citizen. Even the man who owns but an acre or two and maybe never goes hunting has a responsibility in this conservation work. Directly or indirectly he and his family profit from the state's hunting harvest or from the state's general wildlife wealth. Our wild living things can hardly be measured in dollars and cents.

So individuals interested in more game for them-

selves and their friends must realize that game culture is a two-way furrow and the climb is very much uphill. The Commission can do its part, give advice, show the way, provide some of the materials but the work on the land—along the field borders, in the gullies, pot holes, along the streambanks, in the woods—must be done by individuals, you and I and the rest of the folks all interested in the same thing.

Easy? No, the way to more game isn't easy. Words will not do it; tempers will not help; neither will argument or wishful thinking. The approach must be a peoples approach and it must be a long approach.

We know enough today about how to manage most forms of game species and many will respond well to special management practices. Where the wagon bogs down is when too many folks want to ride and few wish to pull. We have the technology, the know-how to produce more wheat or cotton or trees. We're getting the facts too on wildlife. We must now put to work those principles of game management we know, get public understanding and acceptance of them, and maybe the picture can be changed.

One thing is certain. We can have more of these things we want if we want them bad enough and are willing to use our human resources with which to do it.

Top: Making forest clearings for forest wildlife. Bottom: Preparing wood edge for planting for farm wildlife. Unless we get game management on the land itself, we are doing a lot of wishful thinking.





A Professor Looks At Conservation

By DR. R. E. TRIPPENSEE

In the past half century, we have changed from a country of farm owners to a land of factory operators and apartment dwellers. There are problems brought about by this change with which we can and must deal.

BEFORE the end of 1953, more than 30 million fishermen and hunters will whip the streams and tramp the woods and fields in pursuit of fish, game and health. Several hundred million or perhaps even a billion dollars will be spent on guns, ammunition, tackle and other accessories for making the sport pleasurable and productive. Part of this horde will come home tired and disgruntled, but most of them will feel well-paid for their efforts from a trip to the open spaces. Not all of them will be repaid with fish and fowl, but all will have experienced the "life" which comes from time spent in an environment of pure air and ample elbow room.

In the past half century, we have changed in the United States from a country of farm owners to a land of factory operators and apartment dwellers. Even the farmers operate on a push button basis with milking parlors, combines, and other mechanized processes. With the change in location and occupation of people have come many problems. The fence and fence-row vegetation has given way to large fields and a minimum of habitat for wildlife. The hordes of hunters and fishermen have lost their respect for land ownership and have moved farther afield with the lure of distant lakes and better hunting ever in mind. With this exodus of city sportsmen have come discarded beer cans, lunch boxes, broken fences and injured feelings on the part of landowners. Following this has come the no-trespass sign and the irate tempers of the people who produce the fish and game.

Frequently, however, there is no complete satisfaction to the closing of land against city sportsmen. The American farmer is traditionally known for his gener-

osity and splendid attitude toward his neighbors, even city neighbors whom he does not know well. Generally, he would prefer to allow the use of his land to sportsmen if that privilege were respected, so the closing sign is not always a final action. Where decent sportsmen ask for the use of the land and follow rules of common courtesy, the landowner will usually take down his sign or at least allow the use of the land by special permit. This lesson in manners is being learned the hard way by millions of gun toters who need the broad acres of our farms and woodlands to keep both physical and mental equipment in healthy condition.

The matter of keeping waters clean and healthful is



Hunters and fishermen, and recreationists in general, have lost much respect for land ownership and public sites, leaving them mutilated and leaving their discarded trash in the most convenient places.

* Dr. Trippensee is professor of Wildlife Management at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts.



The highest and lowest are guilty of violating the pollution rule. Industry and city alike dump wastes into a stream that costs another industry or city down stream thousands of dollars.

another problem we are solving slowly and with much groaning and discomfort. The highest and lowest in the economic scale are guilty of violating the pollution rule. Industry dumps its wastes into a stream that costs another industry down stream thousands of dollars. A city allows its sewage wastes to pass into a clear, pure stream and so destroys its usefulness for the city farther down. Even Joe Public with the dinner pail and bicycle wraps his tin cans and garbage in a newspaper and carries them to the nearest river. All are making their own surroundings less pleasant and the future less secure.

Laws, both federal and state, are making some progress, but the greatest progress is being made through education, this, or at all levels. Great industries are now making plans to take care of their wastes, and communities are treating their own pollution. Fishermen are studying the effects of streamside dumps, and state and local health departments are beginning to operate. When we arrive at a time when each citizen, each community and each industry decides it has a moral obligation to take care of its own filth, we will see the streams run pure and clear, and the aquatic life come back to our much abused waterways.

Many of the conditions just described are of a social nature. As yet, science has not been able to cross the barrier which decrees that fertile soil is necessary to raise abundant crops, that no substitute has been found to take the place of delicate roots, green leaves and nutritious seeds. The deer, beaver, trout, quail and antelope have not changed their exacting demands for

food, cover, or breeding range, and the rise and fall of populations depend on the needs of life which in turn are influenced by the economic laws of people.

That some progress has been made in the field of wildlife conservation is evident if we look at the conservation picture over a broad area. The Swedes have been raising trees and moose together, and harvesting a crop of both for several hundred years. In 1952, the moose harvest in Sweden was more than 22,000, and well over seven million pounds of meat. Wild turkeys are moving northward in Pennsylvania following an advanced stage of mature hardwood trees and the accompanying mast crop. "Any deer" seasons are becoming more common in the states such as Michigan and Wisconsin where overpopulation and winter losses have been a tradition for many years. Successful muskrat management has become a fixed procedure and success is tied in with higher, rather than lower, animal harvests. Fish management is making some progress under the Federal Aid program, and emphasis is changing to better use of artificially produced fish, weed and population controls, longer fishing seasons in overstocked waters and other new and revolutionary measures. Creel censuses and scale studies are indicating the degree of success of stocking and productiveness of waters in terms of hours necessary to catch a fish.

The area of greatest possibility and perhaps lowest accomplishment is in the field of education. While general understanding of the resources problem is still at a low level, some progress is being made. More and more teachers of elementary school children are coming to understand the importance and mechanics of the use of soil, water, vegetation and other basic resources. As their teachings reach the schools, and as the present generation reaches adulthood, this effort will begin to show results. Industries of many kinds are taking an interest in better soil management and water and forest conservation, but the process is painfully slow in terms of acre-accomplishments.

The lack of trained personnel which was evident 20 years ago is giving way to a body of trained young people who have both intelligence and enthusiasm for the job at hand. From this group are emerging teachers, administrators, and research workers who will carry the job forward. Whether the prospects look grim or bright depend on the morale of the individual. Hardly a dent has been made in the problem, but we must remember the problem has been developing for more than 300 years, and so will not be solved in a decade. While we have no cause to be complacent, certainly this is no time to generate gloom. By comparison, we are a young nation, and have an abundance of resources with which to work. If we continue to appreciate the importance of each grain of soil, each drop of water and each spear of grass, and to pass on this reverence to young and old alike, we are likely to solve our problems through a democratic process, and to bequeath to those who follow us a world in which it is still delightful to live.



Sketch of the old Mountain House, as reproduced in ink from a 40-year old snapshot by William Haldsworth.

West Augusta Twice Visited

By ROBERT P. HOLDSWORTH *

WEST AUGUSTA may be only a dot on the map of Virginia, but after more than 40 years I still look back on the weeks I spent there in the fall of 1912 and consider them among the happiest of my life. It was in late October of that year that we set up a United States Forest Service camp just across the road from Whistlerman's Mountain House on the banks of Ramsey's Draft at the foot of Shenandoah Mountain. The landscape was aglow with the scarlet, gold and dull purple of autumn foliage, although much of it had fallen to make the most colorful kind of forest carpet. The very names of the region were intriguing to the imagination—Shenandoah, the valley of the Cow Pasture, the Calf Pasture, the Draft and Georgia Camp-ground.

We moved in from Stokesville, a party of eight as I recall, mostly young foresters not long out of school. Our chief was the late Seward Hankins Marsh, our cook, and a good one, was Bill Stevens. The senior member in point of age was C. D. Cushing, a practical lumberman whose knowledge and experience served us in great stead. Moreover, he was a man of gentle understanding and real nobility of character.

Our job was to examine forest lands that had been

offered for sale to the United States under the recently enacted Weeks Law which authorized the acquisition of land for the purpose of protecting the watersheds of navigable streams. The results of these examinations and reports that we made, and hundreds more like them, were the eventual purchase of the tracts and their incorporation into the George Washington National Forest. We were the first foresters to do such work in this particular region.

Although the youngest of the party, I was, with the exception of Mr. Cushing, the only married member. When my wife and I arrived in Harrisonburg enroute to Stokesville, we at once began to experience the innate kindness of Virginians. Stokesville did not seem to offer much in the way of residential facilities. Mr. Strickler, a young lawyer of Harrisonburg whom we had met, sensed the situation and used his good offices to secure for us the privilege of using a small and well-equipped log cabin located at the Stokesville end of the railroad line. Once installed in the cabin owned by railway officials, Miss Hopper, whom we recollect as the sister of the railway conductor, and Aunt Molly Bixler befriended us and all went well. These incidents and these people we have never forgotten.

When we moved to West Augusta, the Mountain House was the answer to our needs. The Whistlermans

* Mr. Haldsworth is head of the forestry department of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Mass.

provided us with a comfortable room and my wife with meals. Mr. Whistleman was a widower and the woman of the house was his 15-year-old daughter Ruby. We remember her as a girl exhibiting a poise, dignity, and ability far beyond her years. She not only had the responsibility of the household, but also the immediate supervision of three younger children. So comfortable did we find our living that my wife's father and mother came down from Boston and joined us for two pleasant weeks.

I have before me, as I write, a 40-year-old snapshot of the Mountain House. It faced the old dirt road over Shenandoah Mountain (the present surfaced highway runs to the rear of the site) and memory tells me that it looked to the north. The Mountain House was built in two levels in order to conform with rising topography. The eastern or "downhill" section was about half-a-story lower than the "up-hill" part which had railed porches on both the first and second floors. One roof covered both porches and there was an outside stairway. The eastern half contained among other rooms a large one which was heated by a tremendous fireplace. Here on the floor, resting on sheepskins, used to sleep the wagoners who made the Mountain House their half-way stopping place between Staunton and McDowell. They usually arrived after dusk and parked their great covered freight wagons in the yard just off the road. They were up and away by daylight, that most beautiful part of the day, perfumed by the fragrant woodsmoke of the morning fire. The long, hard pull to the crest of the mountain was rewarded by a gorgeous view of the valley of the Cow Pasture. Although the memories of old gentlemen past 60 perhaps are not entirely to be trusted, recollection tells me that the cost of this lodging was 10 cents.

Diagonally across from the Mountain House was a brushy pasture of considerable acreage. Scattered about were many small piles of partially blackened stones. We

were told that these were soldiers' fireplaces and that the location, known as "Georgia Campground", had been the wintering ground of Confederate troops. Again it is recollection, perhaps faulty, which reminds me that they were of Stonewall Jackson's command. There are those who will know for certain, but it seems a reasonable belief. As all travellers know, who today cross the Shenandoah Mountain on the fine highway, the crest was entrenched by Confederate soldiers and the remains of the trenches are still to be seen. Forty years ago, however, when the climb up the road was a real exercise for the young and vigorous, these trenches were much more sharply incised and had considerable depth.

On an evening a day or two before Thanksgiving of 1912, Karl Schmitt and I were approaching camp down Ramsey's Draft in the gathering dusk when we heard the beating of wings and had the unique experience of seeing a flock of wild turkeys coming to roost for the night. We told the cook and he was out before daylight, but had no luck. We did have wild turkey for Thanksgiving dinner, however. Mr. Cushing, who brought it in, intimated that it had been "killed" with a bullet about the size and shape of a silver dollar.

It was nearly 40 years after we reluctantly closed our camp at West Augusta that my wife and I visited the location again. Recognition was difficult. Georgia Campground was grown up in trees. The fireplaces were no longer visible. The Mountain House was gone. It had burned years before but a sign placed there by the Forest Service marks its site. In front of the mound where it stood we found the hard packed cobbles of the old dooryard. Ramsey's Draft still tinkled gently and we thought a bit forlornly. Down the way, two deer leaped gracefully across the road and disappeared. Somehow we felt compensated for advancing years. We were glad that we had known the place 40 years ago. From an old bush at the Mountain House site we clipped a rose for memory and drove on.

Talk Turkey

Anyone seeing wild turkeys is asked to send a report to the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, Richmond 13, Virginia, with the number of birds, whether they are adults or poults, the county in which observed and the date, Chester Phelps, Commission's game division chief, announces.

This information is vitally needed in order that the Commission may determine if there is any rapid or abnormal decrease in the brood size of the wild turkey.

Concern has been expressed over the decline of the turkey in Virginia and this investigation is being made to determine if anything is causing a rapid decline at any particular stage from the egg to the flock. If there is such a decline, the Commission wants to know it in order to do everything possible to overcome the cause.



My Philosophy Of Recreation¹

By E. DANA CAULKINS²

WHAT IS this thing called recreation? Have you ever tried to define it? It strikes me that recreation is whatever you and I do just for the pure satisfaction found in the doing—not the work we do for a wage or salary in store, office or shop, not the chores we perform to keep ourselves, our homes and our communities ship-shape, not the schooling by which we seek the knowledge and skill needed to earn a living.

Sometimes we say that we are going to do this or that “just for the fun of it.” Is that a valid definition of recreation? Almost, but not quite, unless you include as “fun” not only the bubbly kind, with laughter, but also the deeper kind with the warm and lasting glow of inner satisfaction. Almost any activity may be recreational. It all depends on the motive. We may play a game, make a garden, learn a song, or indulge in a life-long study of astronomy. Any of these, and a thousand other things, may be recreational activities if pursued for fun alone—and not for profit, or health, or morality, or any other objective—no matter how worthy.

How big is recreation? A great and growing segment of living! Many years ago the American Federation of Labor, campaigning against the twelve hour day, adopted the slogan “Eight Hours Work, Eight Hours Sleep, Eight Hours Recreation.” That was long before the “five day week” or summer (and winter) vacations for all, on pensions at sixty-five years of age—or the thousand and one labor saving gadgets around the home as well as the shop. What part of a lifetime has the average person now to devote to “free” activity? I did some figuring and I couldn’t make recreation time add up to less than 25 per cent—even after making liberal allowance for personal and community “chores” as well as work, education, sleep, and so on. Perhaps it is coincidence that business statisticians report 25 per cent of the national cash income as spent for recreation.

How important is recreation? Is this newly found margin of free time a kind of unneeded surplus? Is it an incidental by-product of our increasing efficiency in work and education, government and the other more serious and “important” phases of human endeavor. Or is recreation a worthy and superior goal for which the aches and pains of schooling and work are endured? Of course, for many there is joy and great satisfaction in work successfully done. But is it not also true that, for the vast majority, work is primarily a means of getting

(1) Reprint from June issue of *Recreation* published by National Recreation Association.

(2) (Mr. Caulkins is superintendent of recreation in the Westchester County Recreation Commission, New York).

the money and the time to do something else—recreation? Very many must find in recreation the opportunity for vital living, for developing and using personal skills, and for “being somebody” and “going places”—for creating something satisfying.

But we need not over-glamorize recreation. Let's settle for recognition of recreation as *one* of the important phases of well-rounded wholesome living in 1953. Let's not claim that recreation will make everybody healthy and moral—even though we often have seen these “by-product” effects.

Is recreation important to the community? In recent centuries we have organized to build ourselves some roads and sewers, and running water, and public schools, and a few other public services which seem important. We have figured that by all chipping in with taxes for some of these services we could get them cheaper and more efficiently. Well, if we are to have sports fields and playgrounds, tennis courts, and swimming pools, and indoor spaces for drama, music, crafts, and so on, we certainly will have to chip in with our taxes and build these major recreation facilities as a community project. Only a few people can afford to join a fully equipped private recreation club. So, we *do* need a good battery of well-managed public recreation facilities.

How much public management, how much professional public recreation leadership do we need? Do

we want to set up a vast public monopoly to regiment the total recreation time of our population into publicly managed activities and events? Certainly not! Churches, schools, Scouts, “Y's”, and numerous other organizations must be encouraged to improve and strengthen the contributions they make to the total recreation life of our community; home and family play need to be fostered; legitimate commercial amusements have a place in the total picture.

It is indeed not surprising that, in the U.S.A., most wide awake communities have seen fit to set up some kind of public recreation board or commission. The recreation properties owned by the community are maintained and made available for maximum use by all citizens, young and old. A trained and experienced professional staff promotes and organizes public recreation programs with a wide variety of activities suited to all ages and interests. Recreation now has a voice and an arm devoted entirely, year in and year out, to this one large and important phase of wholesome living in a modern community. Amid the pressure for housing, for streets, for parking spaces, for schools, court houses, for sewers, and other community services, recreation new speaks up. It must have its two acres per hundred of population as a fundamental working foundation for the facilities and the leaders who are eager to bring to full fruition the service of community recreation.

COOPERATE WITH THE BREAKERS

(Continued from page 9)

was holding him fast. I saw the rollers were piling into him and throwing him in toward me. Then I threw my star drag into play and began to reel him in. As each roller hit him the fish was thrown toward me and I captured a little line. When another roller hit him I reeled in more line. He was coming in, holding back doggedly, but surely coming in. The water was getting shallower. Then seemingly realizing his plight he gave one more last desperate rush out to sea. I eased the drag and gave a little line, then held him once more. The rollers were hitting him again, kicking him in to me and I was reeling in line, more line with each roller. In he came, closer, closer. Then before I realized it I had dragged him into shallow water right at my feet.

Reeling up a close line, I reached down, caught him in the gills and dragged him out on the beach. He lay there gasping, a beautiful breathing symphony in copper and bronze, red and gold and pink, the tell-tale, quarter circled mark in black branded by nature on his pink tail.

Forty-eight inches long he measured, twenty-eight inches in girth, and he weighed 50 pounds. Not a record channel bass but a surf-easter's prize nevertheless.

When I dragged the fish out of the car on reaching home my little grand-daughter ran to me and Sarah our cook, native of the pine woods of Powhatan County, yelled to my daughter:

“Come here quick, Miss Virginia, Mr. Marshall done ketched de prettiest carp!”



Photo courtesy of the author

Mr. Morgan displays his 50 pound channel bass.



LAW ENFORCEMENT STAFF HAS BEST YEAR

The law enforcement staff of the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries has just completed the best year in its history, I. T. Quinn, executive director of the Commission, discloses.

In a memorandum sent out to all members of the Commission, Quinn stated that, "In my opinion, there has been more accomplished by our staff of enforcement officers during the past fiscal year than during any like period in the history of the Department."

"For example, the enforcement activities resulted in 996 more convictions than were obtained during the previous year. While other activities are more or less intangible, I am convinced that the ratio of success is just as great as it was in the field of law enforcement."

With this statement on efficiency Quinn listed some statistics, which should be of interest to our readers, having to do with game warden activities during the past fiscal year. The game warden staff of the Commission traveled a total of 3,507,808 miles, and worked a total of 383,118 hours. These wardens obtained 8,209 convictions, 2,243 of which were for game law violations, 1,975 for fish law violations and 3,991 for dog law violations. The staff destroyed 43,225 dogs.

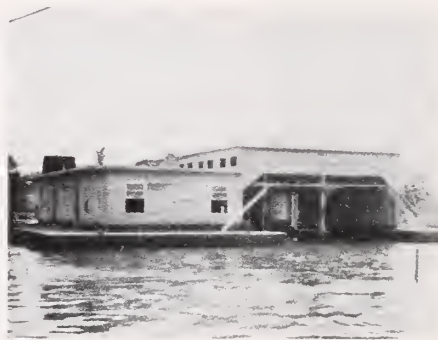
For each conviction obtained, wardens traveled an average of 427 miles and worked an average of 46.67 hours.

Other than the number of hours worked and miles traveled, these facts do not include the very important work of public relations, attending meetings, visiting schools, cooperating with landowners in for-

est and farm game work, the distribution of seeds and plants, assessing damage done to livestock and poultry by dogs, inspecting damage done by wildlife, and cooperation with sportsmen's organizations, planting fish and game.

BACK BAY HEADQUARTERS COMPLETED

The new Back Bay warden headquarters was completed last July. The foundation of creosoted pilings



New Back Bay Headquarters for wardens.

was driven to begin the construction about one year previous to completion. The actual construction of the building was begun last April.

The purpose of the building was for multiple use, including the furnishing of a harbor and overhead shelter for Commission boats, and a tool room and storage facilities to make major repairs on boat engines.

A principle function of the headquarters is to provide suitable headquarters and living facilities for law enforcement personnel operating out of the Back Bay area.

Roland Halstead, warden supervisor for Hampton Roads District, has long aspired for an adequate headquarters for his wardens, that they might serve

more efficiently this important section of the District.

The general construction supervision of the new building was under Chester Phelps, chief of the Commission's game division.

SUBSCRIPTION DRIVE WINNERS ANNOUNCED

While attending the annual warden's school at Blacksburg, V.P.I., Quinn, Commission executive director, announced that three field staff winners of the three-month, April through June, subscription drive on *Virginia Wildlife*.

Top salesman was W. P. Blackwell, game technician from Orange County, who sold 149 new subscriptions. Second was J. J. Westbrook, special game warden from Henrico County, with 135 new subscriptions sold, and third high salesman was W. E. Lankford, conservation officer from Wakefield, who sold 123 new subscriptions.

These three men were authorized by the Commission to attend the Southeastern Conference of Game Commissioners at Chattanooga, Tennessee, this coming October. All expenses will be paid by the Commission as token of its appreciation for efforts put forth in this drive.

These three men were the top salesmen among all wardens, conservation officers, supervising wardens, field biologists, fish hatchery managers and other field personnel.

During the three months a total of 2,161 new subscriptions were sold and 497 renewals were sold, for a total of 2,658 subscriptions.



WALTONIANS START NEW PROJECT: "YOUNG OUTDOOR AMERICANS"

The Izaak Walton League of America has started a new project for the purpose of setting up recognition of achievement by youngsters in natural resource conservation. Bill Voigt, Jr., Executive Director of the "Ikes", explains the new program as follows:

The program is an ambitious one. We are starting it fairly slowly and cautiously, and do not expect it to build to its maximum sustained level until 1955 or 1956. The essence of the plan is relatively simple, but its development will bring some complexity; hence our moving somewhat ponderously on it. Here is the present outline:

1. The goal is to stimulate 'teen-age boys and girls to conservation achievement.
2. We will work fully with existing youth organizations that have conservation aspects or departments in their present program, organizations such as the Boy and Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, 4-H organizations, Future Farmers of America, and others.
3. We set up a listing of minimum standards and approved types of activities.
4. Statewide eliminations will be held, to choose the outstanding "Young Outdoor American" boy and girl of each state.
5. The highest ranking boy and girl from each state are to be brought to the League national convention, where they will be honored at a youth rally.
6. At the League convention a boy and a girl will be chosen as THE outstanding young American conservationists. They will be given suitable trophies, and

awarded vacation trips, under proper chaperonage, to a national park or other area of conservation significance.

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO NEW COMMISSIONERS; REAPPOINTS WATKINS

Governor John S. Battle has appointed Homer G. Bauserman, Sr., from Arlington, to the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries as the first member from the newly set up 10th Congressional District, I. T. Quinn, executive director of the Commission, discloses.

In addition to the appointment of Bauserman, the Governor reappointed T. D. Watkins, of the 3rd District, to the Commission and ap-



Homer Bauserman

Holman Willis, Jr.



pointed Holman Willis, Jr., Roanoke Attorney, to succeed Dr. Wm. T. Pugh, who retired from the Commission effective July 1.

The appointment of Willis and Bauserman and the reappointment of Watkins rounds out in full the 10 members of the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, Quinn said.

"Both Willis and Bauserman are outstanding sportsmen-conservationists, and will add immeasurably to the strength of the Commission in the development of policies for a higher state of protection and development of the wildlife resources of the Commonwealth," said Quinn.

FEDERAL-AID EXCISE TAX COLLECTIONS SHOW INCREASE

Excise-tax collections on sporting arms and ammunition and on sport fishing tackle from July 1952 through February 1953 ran ahead of the same period during the preceding fiscal year, according to the National Wildlife Federation. These are the funds allocated to the states for wildlife and fisheries projects under the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson acts of Congress.

For the first eight months of this past fiscal year, P-R collections (tax on arms and ammunition) totaled \$8,415,110. This compares to \$6,747,307 during the same months of 1951-52.

D-J collections (tax on sport fishing tackle) during the same period totaled \$2,259,585. This compares to \$1,524,929 during the July-February period of the preceding fiscal year.

COMMISSION HIRES NEW AQUATIC BIOLOGIST

The Commission has added another aquatic biologist to its fish division personnel.

Dixie Lee Shuniate, Jr., 22 year old



Dixie Shumote, Jr.

son of Dixie Shumate, long-time Commission trout hatchery manager at Marion, Virginia, began work as aquatic biologist on July 1. His principle work at the present time entails the location of pond sites, for construction of public fishing ponds in the state.

Shumate received his BS Degree in forestry and wildlife conservation from V.P.I. in June of this year. He has worked for the Commission on pond surveys and at the hatchery at Marion for the last five summers. Fish and their culture have made up the major portion of young Shumate's life, since he grew up at the hatchery where his father has been employed since 1931.

CURRITUCK SOUND SAFE FOR PRESENT

Withdrawal of a dredging company's application to the North Carolina State Board of Conservation and Development for authority to remove deposits of oyster shells from beneath Currituck Sound climaxes a cooperative effort of local and national groups to prevent widespread damage to that productive body of water, the Wildlife Management Institute reports. Many persons believe that the applicant acted to avoid unfavorable action by the state board, thereby leaving an opening for reintroduction of the proposal at a later date.

At public hearings before state board, scientists testified that the key to the sound's great value for fish and migratory waterfowl is its profuse growths of aquatic vegetation. Because the shell deposits are overlain with a thick layer of fine silt, these men stated, dredging would have a ruinous effect on vast areas of

vegetation. Nearly continual winds in the sound area would spread the turbid water wildly, reducing drastically the life-giving sunlight which filters through the water to the plants. In time, the silt would settle in new areas, choking and crushing the vegetation beneath it.

FIRST I. W. LEAGUE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

The first recipient of the newly established Lynchburg Izaak Walton League freshman scholarship in conservation has been announced by officials of the League and Lynchburg College.

Julius C. Rosen of Alcoma has been awarded a \$400 scholarship for pre-conservation study at Lynchburg College. An incoming freshman, he was selected from applicants from Lynchburg and the six nearby counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Buckingham, Campbell and Nelson.

Presentation of the scholarship was made at Lynchburg College by C. I. Van Cleve, president of the Lynchburg Izaak Walton League, George W. Martin and H. C. Hubbard, members of the League's schol-



Julius Rosen (left, seated) receives IWA scholarship in conservation from C. I. Van Cleve, president of the Lynchburg Chapter. Standing (left to right) Dr. Fred Helsobeck, assistant to the president of Lynchburg College, George Martin and H. C. Hubbard, both of the scholarship committee.

arship committee, and Dr. Fred Helsobeck, assistant to the president at Lynchburg College, who has worked with the League in establishing the scholarship.

Approved in December by the Board of Directors of the Walton League, the conservation scholarship was announced by M. L. Glover, then president of the League. Although awarded only for the 1953 session,

the hope was expressed then that the scholarship would be continued each year.

Among the factors considered in awarding the scholarship to Rosen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard B. Rosen of Alcoma, was his interest in conservation as a career, his scholarship record and personal characteristics essential for effective work in this field.

Selected as the "most promising entering freshman applicant" from the area, Rosen will enter Lynchburg College in the fall with a scholarship covering practically all of the tuition costs of his freshman year.

SIX-YEAR OLD FISHING VET

Age is no indication of how much you know about fishing, if young Lang Shelton, from Pearisburg, Virginia, is any example. Although only six years old, young Shelton has fished about the state in fresh water for some time now, but he had never done any salt-water fishing until this past June. But he apparently had the know-how down pat, as is evidenced by the picture submitted by his dad, L. J. Shelton. It shows Lang with two prize flounders which he caught at Cape Charles last June.

That isn't bad for a "first trip" no matter how old you are.



Six-year old Long Shelton and his two flounders.

Wildlife Questions and Answers

Ques.: Do chameleons really change color to match their background?

Ans.: No. This is another superstition disproved by modern scientific knowledge. Chameleons, like many other types of lizards, do undergo quick changes of color. However, naturalists have proved that they change color with no more intention of matching their background than does a human when he blushes. A chameleon may be placed on a red flower petal and he is just as likely to turn green as rose. The changing color is caused by emotion, heat and cold, sunlight and darkness.

Ques.: Does a centipede actually have a hundred legs?

Ans.: No. A common house centipede has 30 legs. Garden centipedes have nearly 200 legs and the insect called a "thousand-legs" has by actual count only 60!

Ques.: There is an old superstition that in times of danger turtles can crawl out of their shells. Is this superstition upheld by scientific fact?

Ans.: No, definitely not. The bany-shelled turtle is attached inescapably to the armor of its protective covering.

Ques.: Are there any fish which can live out of water?

Ans.: Yes. The Oriental Perch and the African lung fish are so much dependent on air breathing that if they are kept under water for too long a period of time, they will suffocate.

Ques.: How does an Indian snake charmer "charm" snakes with music?

Ans.: Many believe that a snake hears the music which more or less hypnotizes it. Actually, a snake charmer "charms" the snake by the rhythmic swaying of his body and the graceful moving of his flute or wand. The sound of the music does not penetrate the snake's awareness at all.

Ques.: Does the wild turkey require free water to drink, or do they get all they need from succulent plants?

Ans.: Yes, turkeys do require free water, but usually take water only once a day, flying from their roost for the daily drink.

Ques.: When did the last passenger pigeon die or get killed?

Ans.: The last passenger pigeon died in the Cincinnati Zoological Garden in September, 1914.

Ques.: What kind of license is required to hunt bull frogs in Virginia?

Ans.: A bull frog is a wild animal and therefore a hunting license is required to hunt it.

Ques.: How many dogs were killed last year by the law enforcement division of the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries? What other type animal are there any records on concerning deaths on the highways of the state?

Ans.: Law enforcement personnel of the Commission killed a total of 43,225 dogs during the last fiscal year. During this same period of time the State Highway Department picked up over 10,000 dogs, 11,636 cats, 10,776 rabbits, 4,212 skunks, and 10,144 opossums, groundhogs and other miscellaneous wild animals, making a total road-kill of more than 46,000 forms of animal life destroyed on our state highways each year.

Ques.: How many miles does the law enforcement staff of the Commission travel during any one year? How many convictions do they obtain? How many convictions are for game, fish and dog law violations?

Ans.: Last year, the law enforcement staff traveled 3,507,808 miles, and obtained a total of 8,209 convictions in the fish, game and dog law violations. The breakdown shows that 2,243 of these convictions were for game law violations; 1,975 were for fish law violations; and 3,991 were for dog law violations.



"Say! Have you been chopping wood with this axe again?"

Ques.: Approximately how many people in the United States fish and hunt, or at least how many of these types of licenses are sold each year? How much is paid for these licenses?

Ans.: The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently reported that from July 1951 to June 1952 the number of persons hunting and fishing in the United States had reached a new high. The figures reveal

that nearly 14 million licenses were sold to hunters and more than 17 million licenses were sold to fishermen. These outdoor enthusiasts paid out \$70,-603,207 in license fees.

Ques.: Isn't it true that all birds move their wings in unison?

Ans.: No, not all of them. Most birds move their wings in unison, but the swift—a champion speedster—beats its wings alternately.

Ques.: Do we have any birds of paradise or any of its relatives in the State of Virginia?

Ans.: No, we have no birds of paradise, but we definitely do have one of its relatives. The New Guinea's greater bird of paradise, noted for its magnificent and multi-colored plumes, is a cousin to the common crow.

Ques.: Although the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries is primarily interested in fresh water fish, would you by chance have any idea what the record for striped bass is?

Ans.: Mrs. Virginia Cruz, Fairhaven, Mass., on June 29 of this year landed a 49 pound striped bass to establish a potential World's Record for women in the all-tackle class. She was fishing with Capt. Bob Tilton off Cuttyhunk, Mass., when she landed her prize catch. This is the closest to a salt-water record we have available.

Ques.: Other than migratory waterfowl, are there any birds that swim under water?

Ans.: Yes, the small water ouzel, a bird that likes water insects, "flies" under water, using the same wing motion that other birds employ in the air. The ouzel walks about on the bottom of a stream as easily as other birds walk on land. Its feathers are so thick that the body never becomes wet.

Ques.: Is it true that the dragon fly has remarkable vision, and if so what accounts for its unusual ability to see so well?

Ans.: The dragon fly's compound eye which is composed of nearly 30,000 units, permits vision in almost all directions.

Ques.: Is the carp a native American? If not, where did it come from?

Ans.: No, the carp is not native to America. It was introduced into this country in 1877, when R. Hessel, working for the U. S. Fish Commission, brought 345 carp to this country. These carp were placed in ponds in Washington, D. C., and were later distributed to 25 states.

Today, the carp is found in all parts of Virginia in almost all fresh water streams of any size that are not too cold such as brook trout streams. Carp are found in all states and territories of the United States, with the exception of Alaska.

WHOO-O-O

7th
ANNUAL

WILDLIFE Essay Contest

\$10000.00
in PRIZES

SCHOOLS ELIGIBLE: Only Virginia schools, elementary and high, grades 5-12 inclusive will be eligible to enter this contest.

SUBJECT: Wildlife Conservation: Its Meaning and Importance

SPONSORED BY: The Virginia Division of the Izaak Walton League of America and the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries.

DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 1953 TO
FEBRUARY 28, 1954.

CONTEST RULES

1. Essays must be submitted through the schools participating and each essay must contain a minimum of 500 words.
2. Each entry should bear the following information in the upper righthand corner of each essay: name, sex, age, grade, address, school, county, and teacher.
3. Students of Virginia schools, grades 5-12 inclusive, will be eligible to enter this contest.
4. ALL essays MUST be mailed first class, PREPAID to COMMISSION OF GAME & INLAND FISHERIES, Box 1642, Richmond, Virginia. Teachers must submit ALL entries, however they may make their selection of the best essays and indicate their choices.
5. No papers will be returned and the decision of the judges will be final. Each sponsoring organization will appoint two conservationists to serve on the judging committee.

PRIZES

Eight grand prizes, \$50 each,
one for each grade, totaling.....\$400
Eight second prizes, \$25 each,
one for each grade, totaling.....\$200
Eight third prizes, \$15 each,
one for each grade, totaling....\$120
Sixteen honorable mention
prizes, \$10 each, two for
each grade, totaling.....\$160
Sixteen special mention prizes,
\$5 each, two for each grade,
totaling\$80
One school prize, best
response\$40

Grand total.....\$1000

There will be seven prizes in each of the eight competing grades. Grand prize winners will come to Richmond as guests of the sponsors to receive their awards. Others will be given awards in the schools.

The school having the best response will be given a special \$40 prize for its athletic or general purpose fund.

200 certificates of merit will be awarded in addition to the money grand prizes.